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CLIFFORD CHANCE US LLP
31 WEST 52ND STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10019-6131

EXAMINER	
STEVENS, THOMAS H	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/788,231	ROSEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas H. Stevens	2123	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/16/01.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2002 is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/29/04.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-44 were examined and rejected.

Information Disclosure Statement (Date of Publication)

2. The reference, "European Search Report" dated 2003 was not considered for the following reason: The date of publication supplied must include at least the month and year of publication, except that the year of publication (without the month) will be accepted if the applicant points out in the information disclosure statement that the year of publication ***is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the particular month of publication is not an issue***. The place of publication refers to the name of the journal, magazine, or other publication in which the information being submitted was published. (MPEP 609 pg. 600-121 left column, lines 7-17. August 2001)

Claim Interpretation

3. Office personnel are to give claims their **"broadest reasonable interpretation"** in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris,* 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater,* 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551(CCPA 1969). See *also *In re Zletz,* 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322(Fed. Cir. 1989) ("During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow") .... The reason is

simply that during patent prosecution when claims can be amended, ambiguities should be recognized, scope and breadth of language explored, and clarification imposed .... An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process. **The following prior art in the following rejection superimposes or is inherent to the detailed steps, in most cases, of the application.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Krishnamurthy (U.S. Patent 6,256,038 (1998)). Krishnamurthy teaches a method for

creating a smooth parameterization and fitting it to an input surface in a 3-D computer graphics system comprising specifying a plurality of boundary curves on the surface that define a patch of the surface. The boundary curves are typically specified using a user-interactive curve editing procedure, but may also be specified automatically (abstract).

Claim 1. A computerized method for manipulating a plurality of control points (column 51, lines 1-4) the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the method comprising (column 8, lines 26-34 and column 10, lines 49-51): adjusting the position of a control point in an intermediary row in the U direction to provide a smooth transition from the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction to a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction; adjusting the position of the control point in an intermediary row in the V direction to provide a smooth transition from the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the V direction to a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the V direction (column 18, lines 50-67 and column 19, lines 1-6); and computing the new position of the control point based on the corresponding adjusted positions of the control point in the intermediary row in the U direction and the control points in the intermediary row in the V direction (column 21, lines 8-11 and lines 47-52).

Claim 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of control points define a surface (title).

Claim 3.The method of claim 2 wherein the surface comprises a surface selected from the group consisting of a Béziers surface and a Nurbs surface (column 2, lines 1-7), wherein the surface is represented in a CAD system (column 45, lines 40-44).

Claim 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the surface comprises a three-dimensional surface (column 6, lines 9-19).

Claim 5. The method of claim 1 wherein computing the new position additionally comprises averaging the adjusted position of the control point in the intermediary row in the U direction and the adjusted position of the control point in the intermediary row in the V direction (column 7, lines 6-11; column 18, lines 51-67 and column 19, lines 1-5).

Claim 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising: determining a reference axis for the first edge along the U direction, the second edge along the U direction, the first edge along the V direction, and the second edge along the V direction, wherein the method of determining the reference axis comprises (column 8, lines 6-35, specifically: column 18, lines 51-67 and column 19, 1-5): for each edge: determining an X vector comprising a first vector point located at a first extremity of the edge and a second vector point located at a second extremity of the edge(column 8, lines 6-35, specifically: column 18,

lines 51-67 and column 19, 1-5); determining a Z vector comprising the average of two extreme vectors orthogonally adjusted to the X vector, wherein the two extreme vectors comprise a vector formed by an extremity point and its neighbor; and determining a Y vector comprising the vectorial product of the X vector and the Z vector (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 7. The method of claim 6 wherein adjusting the position of a control point in an intermediary row in the U direction comprises adjusting the control point using the reference axis for the first edge along the U direction and the second edge along the U direction; and wherein adjusting the position of a control point in an intermediary row in the V direction further adjusting the control point using the reference axis for the first edge along the V direction and the second edge along the V direction.

Claim 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising: identifying a first row in the U direction corresponding to the control point; determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a first U plane (column 33, lines 15-67); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a second U plane (column 33, lines 15-67); and adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane, wherein the adjustment only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to the first edge along the U direction belongs in the first U plane and the

row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the U direction belongs in the second U plane(column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising (column 33, lines 15-67): computing an adjusted U plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first U plane and the second U plane (column 2, lines 28-31); and wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted U plane (column 33, lines 38-67).

Claim 10. The method of claim 8 further comprising (column 33, lines 15-67): identifying a second row in the V direction corresponding to the control point; determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the V direction and the second row belongs in a first V plane (column 33, lines 15-67); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the V direction and the second row belongs in a second V plane (column 33, lines 15-67); and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane, wherein the adjacent only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to the first edge along the V direction belongs in the first V plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the V direction belongs in the second V plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising: computing an adjusted V plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first V plane and the second

V plane (column 33, lines 15-67); wherein adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted V plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising: computing an adjusted U plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first U plane and the second U plane (column 33, lines 15-67); and computing an adjusted V plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first V plane and the second V plane (column 33, lines 15-67 and column 2, lines 29-31).

Claim 13. The method of 12 wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises projecting the control point on an intersection of the adjusted U plane and the adjusted V plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 14. The method of 12 wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted U plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 15. The method of 12 wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the

second V plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted V plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising repeating the first adjusting step, second adjusting step, and computing step for each point that is not along the first edge in the U direction, second edge in the U direction, third edge in the V direction, and fourth edge in the V direction (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 17. A computerized method for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the method comprising: identifying a first row in the U direction corresponding to a control point (column 52, lines 1-3; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; and column 33, lines 15-38); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction mad the first row belongs in a first U plane; determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38); and adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane, wherein the adjustment only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to the first edge along the U direction belongs in the first U plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the U direction belongs in the second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim I8. The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of control points define a surface (column 33, lines 15-38 with figure 8).

Claim 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the surface comprises a surface selected from the group consisting of a Béziers surface and a Nurbs surface (column 45, lines 40-44), wherein the surface is represented in a CAD system (column 2, lines 1-7).

Claim 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the surface comprises a three-dimensional surface (column 6, lines 9-19).

Claim 21. The method of claim 18(column 33, lines 15-38 with figure 8) further comprising: computing an adjusted U plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first U plane and the second U plane (column 2, lines 28-30 and column 33, lines 15-67); wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted U plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 22. The method of claim 18(column 33, lines 15-38 with figure 8) further comprising: identifying a second row in the V direction corresponding to the control point; determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the V direction and the second row belongs in a first V plane (column 33, lines 15-67); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the V

direction and the second row belongs in a second V plane(column 33, lines 15-67); and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane, wherein the adjustment only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to the first edge along the V direction belongs in the first V plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the V direction belongs in the second V plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 23. The method of claim 22 further comprising: computing an adjusted V plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first V plane and the second V plane (column 33, lines 15-67); wherein adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted V plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 24. The method of claim 22(column 33, lines 15-67) further comprising: computing an adjusted U plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first U plane and the second U plane; and computing an adjusted V plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first V plane and the second V plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 25. The method of 24 wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the

second V plane comprises projecting the control point on an intersection of the adjusted U plane and the adjusted V plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 26. The method of 24 wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted U plane (column 33, lines 15-67).

Claim 27. The method of 24 wherein adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises projecting the control point on the adjusted V plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 28. A computerized method for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the method comprising: identifying a first row in the U direction corresponding to a control point; determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a first U plane (column 52, lines 1-3; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; and column 33, lines 15-38); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38); and constraining the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane, wherein the constraining only occurs if the row of

control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction belongs in the first U plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the U direction belongs in the second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the network of control points defines a surface (column 33, lines 15-38 with figure 8).

Claim 30. The method of claim 29(column 33, lines 15-38 with figure 8) wherein the surface comprises a surface selected from the group consisting of a Béziers surface and a Nurbs surface (column 2, lines 1-7), wherein the surface is represented in a CAD system (column 45, lines 40-44).

Claim 31. The method of claim 28 wherein the surface comprises a three-dimensional surface (column 6, lines 9-19).

Claim 32. The method of claim 28 further comprising (column 6, lines 9-19): computing an adjusted U plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first U plane and the second U plane; wherein constraining the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane comprises constraining the control point on the adjusted U plane.

Claim 33. The method of claim 28 further comprising: identifying a second row in the V direction corresponding to the control point (column 52, lines 1-3; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; and column 33, lines 15-38); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the V direction and the second row belongs in a first V plane (column 33, lines 15-38); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the V direction and the second row belongs in a second V plane(column 33, lines 15-38); and constraining the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane, wherein the constraining only control if the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the V direction belongs in the first V plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the V direction belongs in the second V plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 34. The method of claim 33(column 52, lines 1-3; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; and column 33, lines 15-38) further comprising: computing an adjusted V plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first V plane and the second V plane (column 33, lines 15-38); wherein adjusting the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises constraining the control point on the adjusted V plane (column 9, lines 28-42;and column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 35. The method of claim 33 further comprising: computing an adjusted U plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first U plane and the

second U plane (column 52, lines 1-3; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; and column 33, lines 15-38); and computing an adjusted V plane for the control point to provide a smooth transition between the first V plane and the second V plane (column 2, lines 28-31; and column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 36. The method of 35 wherein constraining the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and constraining the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises constraining the control point to an intersection of the adjusted U plane and the adjusted V plane (column 9, lines 28-42;and column 33, lines 15-38)

Claim 37. The method of 35 wherein constraining the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and constraining the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises constraining the control point to the adjusted U plane (column 9, lines 28-42;and column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 38. The method of 35 wherein constraining the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane and constraining the control point using the first V plane and the second V plane comprises constraining the control point to the adjusted V plane (column 9, lines 28-42;and column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 39. A computer system for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the system comprising: a computer, wherein the computer comprises a memory and a processor (column 52, lines 1-3; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; and column 33, lines 15-38); and executable software residing in the computer memory wherein the software is operative with the processor to: adjust the position of a control point in an intermediary row in the U direction to provide a smooth transition from the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction to a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction (column 33, lines 15-38); adjust the position of the control point in an intermediary row in the V direction to provide a smooth transition from the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the V direction to a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the V direction (column 9, lines 27-50 and column 33 lines 15-38); and compute the new position of the control point based on the corresponding adjusted positions of the control point in the intermediary row in the U direction and the control points in the intermediary row in the V direction (column 33, lines 15-33).

Claim 40. A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the signal comprising the steps of (column 1, lines 1- 26; column 52, lines 1-3; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; and column 33, lines

15-38): adjusting the position of a control point in an intermediary row in the U direction to provide a smooth transition from the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction to a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction (column 9, lines 27-43; column 33, lines 15-38) adjusting the position of the control point in an intermediary row in the V direction to provide a smooth transition from the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the V direction to a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the V direction; and computing the new position of the control point based on the corresponding adjusted positions of the control point in the intermediary row in the U direction and the control points in the intermediary row in the V direction (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 41. A computer system for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the system comprising (column 1, lines 1- 26; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; column 33, lines 15-38): a computer, wherein the computer comprises a memory and a processor; and executable software residing in the computer memory wherein the software is operative with the processor to: identify a first row in the U direction corresponding to a control point; determine if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a first U plane (column 1, lines 1-26; column9, lines 27-43; column 44, lines 54-56; and column 51, lines 1-4) determine if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U

direction and the first row belongs in a second U plane; and adjust the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane, wherein the adjustment only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to the first edge along the U direction belongs in the first U plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the U direction belongs in the second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 42. A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the signal comprising the steps of: identifying a first row in the U direction corresponding to a control point (column 1, lines 1- 26; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; column 33, lines 15-38; and column 44, lines 54-67); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a first U plane; determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38); and adjusting the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane, wherein the adjustment only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to the first edge along the U direction belongs in the first U plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the U direction belongs in the second U plane (column 9, lines 27-50; and column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 43. A computer system for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the system comprising: a computer, wherein the computer comprises a memory and a processor (column 1, lines 1- 26; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; column 33, lines 15-38; and column 44, lines 54-67); and executable software residing in the computer memory wherein the software is operative with the processor to: identify a first row in the U direction corresponding to a control point (column 1, lines 1-26 and column 33, lines 15-38); determine if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a first U plane (column 33, lines 15-38); determine if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a second U plane(column 33, lines 15-38); and the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane, wherein the constrain only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction belongs in the first U plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the U direction belongs in the second U plane (column 9, lines 27-50; and column 33, lines 15-38).

Claim 44. A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream for manipulating a plurality of control points, the plurality of control points forming a plurality of rows along two non-parallel directions U and V, the signal comprising the steps of: identifying a first row in the U direction corresponding to a control point (column 1, lines 1- 26; column 29, lines 46-56 with figure 8; column 33, lines 15-38; and column 44, lines 54-67);

determining if a row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a first U plane (column 33, lines 15-38); determining if a row of control points corresponding to a second edge along the U direction and the first row belongs in a second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38); and constraining the control point using the first U plane and the second U plane, wherein the constraining only occurs if the row of control points corresponding to a first edge along the U direction belongs in the first U plane and the row of control points corresponding to the second edge along the U direction belongs in the second U plane (column 33, lines 15-38).

Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is (703) 305-0365, Monday-Friday (8:00 am- 4:30 pm) or contact Supervisor Mr. Kevin Teska at (703) 305-9704. The fax number for the group is 703-872-9306.

Any inquires of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose phone number is (703) 305-3900.

June 23, 2004

KEVIN J. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER

THS